

Student-Designed Major

Students may design their own major with the assistance and approval of three advisors from relevant fields and subsequent final approval by the Augsburg University Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). A student-designed major allows flexibility in selecting major courses. Any student wishing to design a major must complete a proposal, submit it with approval and supporting letters from three faculty advisors, and obtain AAC approval of the program. Students should seek AAC approval as early as possible so that any changes suggested by AAC may be incorporated into the design without affecting the student's proposed completion date. The deadline for initial submission of the program design to AAC is the first term in which the student has achieved junior status; the final version must be approved the term before the student achieves senior status.

Students wishing to design majors must:

1. Develop the student-designed major in concert with three faculty advisors from relevant fields, who together constitute the Review Team. All advisors must sign the proposal cover sheet and submit supporting letters of approval to AAC. Supporting letters should assess both the student's ability to complete the proposed major and the validity and value of the proposed major, including (in at least one of the letters) the proposed capstone course. The advisors' signatures and supporting letters represent their approval of the program, including the capstone course, and their commitment to oversee the student's progress.

2. Develop a student-designed major program proposal that includes:

- A statement of learning goals and objectives
- A list of proposed courses (minimum of 36 semester credits, no more than one of which is a lower-level language course, and at least five of which are upper division) and a discussion of how the courses are related to the program goals. Indicate how the proposed courses collectively support a specialized and cohesive plan usually associated with a college major. Proposals must include research describing comparable programs of study at a minimum of three other academic institutions. In addition, students should consult with the Clair & Gladys Strommen Center for Meaningful Work for additional information regarding career objectives. The proposal should provide information showing how the Augsburg Core Curriculum requirements (including graduation skills) are to be fulfilled.
- A description of the student-designed major capstone to be taken some time during the senior year. The student should devise the capstone in consultation with advisors. It should require an integrative project/paper that draws together the coursework up to that point and/or prepares one for further study. In addition, at least one of the advisors must specifically address the rationale for the proposed capstone in his or her supporting letter, though approval of the student-designed major program by all advisors presumes their approval of the capstone course.
- Submit the completed proposal and supporting documentation to the Office of Academic Affairs.

If AAC approves the proposed major program, the student will be expected to complete the program designed and still meet all of the other Augsburg degree requirements as stated in the University catalog.

Students who design their own majors will meet with their advisors regularly throughout the design and subsequent evaluation of their program. Changes in the approved student-designed major may be made through the normal petition process to the Student Standing Committee with advisor approval.

Student-Designed Major Contract

Student Name

Student ID Number

I am developing a Student-Designed Major in accordance with the guidelines endorsed by the Augsburg University Faculty. Enclosed please find my Student-Designed Major proposal. The following documents are included:

1. Learning goals and objectives
2. A list of proposed courses
3. A discussion of how these courses are related to program goals with special attention paid to research describing comparable programs of study at a minimum of three other academic institutions and information showing how the Augsburg Core Curriculum requirements (including graduation skills) are to be fulfilled.
4. A description of the Student- Designed Major Capstone.

Student Signature

Date

These faculty members have agreed to serve as my Review Team. Attached is a letter of support from each of them confirming (1) my ability to complete this proposed major and (2) the validity and value of this proposed major. Their signature indicates their approval of this Student Designed Major and their commitment to oversee my progress.

Faculty Adviser Name

Faculty Adviser Signature

Date

Faculty Adviser Name

Faculty Adviser Signature

Date

Faculty Adviser Name

Faculty Adviser Signature

Date